



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CORDELL HULL BUILDING
First Floor, CEDS
425 5th AVENUE NORTH
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243

December 1, 2006

Dear Colleague:

I would like to make you aware of the current **requirements for reporting tuberculosis (TB)** to the Tennessee Department of Health:

Effective July 1, 2004, all persons with known or suspected active TB of all forms, including pulmonary and/or extrapulmonary disease, must be reported to the Tennessee Department of Health within 12 hours by phone (T.C.A. 68-9-201; Chapter 1200-14-1.02, 1.03(1) of the Rules and Regulations of the Tennessee Department of Health). This verbal report should include the name, age, sex, race, and address of the patient. Written notification providing the same information must also be submitted within one week, preferably using forms provided by the Department. Persons to report include patients who you treat or consider treating for active TB.

Early notification of TB suspects and cases enables the Department of Health to ensure appropriate treatment of TB suspects and cases and to provide all patients with essential services including counseling and education regarding TB disease and treatment, "client-centered" case management, free treatment under directly observed therapy, and monitoring for toxicity and compliance throughout therapy. Early notification also enables the Department of Health to initiate a contact investigation promptly to identify additional persons with active TB or latent TB infection, thus preventing further spread of disease.

Providers should report TB cases and suspects directly to the Regional Health Office TB Clinic designated for the county where the patient resides. Please note that Health Department TB Clinic providers can provide consultation if you are considering the possibility of TB and whether or not to initiate isolation and treatment. For your convenience, a map showing the regional divisions that should be used for reporting purposes is attached, as well as contact names, phone and fax numbers for each Regional Office. **Updated forms** for written notification are available on-line at **<http://www2.state.tn.us/health/Downloads/ph-1600.pdf>**

Please remember to "**THINK TB**" when evaluating persons with compatible clinical findings, especially those with known TB risk factors such as foreign-birth, HIV, substance abuse,

(Continued on Back)

homelessness, immunosuppressive treatment or conditions (i.e., chemotherapy, steroids, or TNF- α blocking agents such as infliximab (Remicade[®]), and residence or employment in correctional facilities or long-term care facilities). A list of TB risk factors and other **TB-related resources** can be obtained at the following websites:

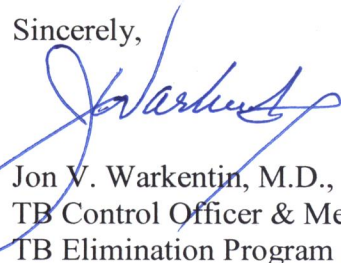
<http://www2.state.tn.us/health/CEDS/TB/index.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/default.htm>

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact your Regional Health Office or the Tennessee Department of Health at (615)741-7247.

Thank-you for working with us to protect the public's health.

Sincerely,



Jon W. Warkentin, M.D., M.P.H.
TB Control Officer & Medical Director
TB Elimination Program
Tennessee Department of Health
1st Floor, Cordell Hull Building
425 5th Avenue N.
Nashville, TN 37243